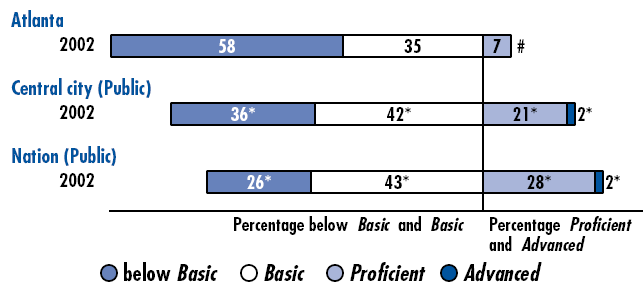


The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) assesses reading in three contexts described in the NAEP framework: reading for literary experience, to gain information, and to perform a task. The NAEP reading scale ranges from 0 to 500. In 2002, Atlanta City was one of five urban districts that voluntarily participated in the NAEP reading assessment on a trial basis.

### Overall Reading Results for Atlanta

- The average scale score for eighth-grade students in Atlanta was 236.
- Atlanta's average score (236) was lower<sup>1</sup> than that of the nation's public schools (263). Atlanta's average score was lower than that of public schools in central cities<sup>2</sup> (254).
- The percentage of students who performed at or above the NAEP *Proficient* level was 8 percent. The percentage of students who performed at or above the *Basic* level was 42 percent.

### Student Percentage at NAEP Achievement Level



### Performance of NAEP Reporting Groups in Atlanta

Reporting groups	Percentage of students <sup>3</sup>	Average Score	Percentage of students at			
			Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced
Male	49	231 ↓	63 ↑	31 ↓	6 ↓	#
Female	51	240 ↓	53 ↑	38	9 ↓	#
White	5	275	16	37	42	5
Black	92	233 ↓	61 ↑	34 ↓	5 ↓	#
Hispanic	2	---	---	---	---	---
Asian/Pacific Islander	1	---	---	---	---	---
American Indian/Alaska Native	#	---	---	---	---	---
Free/reduced-priced school lunch						
Eligible	76	233 ↓	62 ↑	33 ↓	5 ↓	#
Not eligible	20	244 ↓	47 ↑	42	11 ↓	1
Information not available	4	---	---	---	---	---

### Average Score Gaps Between Selected Groups

- Female students in Atlanta had an average score that was higher than that of male students (9 points). This performance gap was not significantly different from that of the Nation (9 points).
- White students had an average score that was higher than that of Black students (41 points). This performance gap was wider than that of the Nation (27 points).
- The sample size was not sufficient to permit a reliable estimate for Hispanic students in Atlanta.
- Students who were not eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch had an average score that was higher than that of students who were eligible (11 points). This performance gap was narrower than that of the Nation (22 points).

### Reading Scale Scores at Selected Percentiles

	Scale Score Distribution		
	25 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	50 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	75 <sup>th</sup> Percentile
Atlanta	214 ↓	236 ↓	259 ↓
Central city (Public)	232 ↓	256 ↓	278 ↓
Nation (Public)	242	265	286

An examination of scores at different percentiles on the 0–500 NAEP reading scale at each grade indicates how well students at lower, middle, and higher levels of the distribution performed. For example, the data above show that 75 percent of students in public schools nationally scored below 286, while 75 percent of students in Atlanta scored below 259.

# Percentage rounds to zero.

--- Reporting standards not met; sample size insufficient to permit a reliable estimate.

\* Significantly different from Atlanta.

↑ Significantly higher than, ↓ lower than appropriate subgroup in the nation (public).

<sup>1</sup> Comparisons (higher/lower/not different) are based on statistical tests. The .05 level was used for testing statistical significance.

<sup>2</sup> Central city includes nationally representative public schools located in central cities within metropolitan statistical areas as defined by the federal Office of Management and Budget. It is not synonymous with "inner city."

<sup>3</sup> For comparison at eighth grade, non-White students comprised 61 percent of students in central city public schools and 36 percent in public schools nationally. Also, students eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch comprised 47 percent of students in central city public schools and 34 percent in public schools nationally.

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. Score gaps are calculated based on differences between unrounded average scale scores.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2002 Trial Urban District Reading Assessment.